



## 2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

### Project Focus —

J. O. and Rhoda McDonald of Crook County are using the WRP to develop 444 acres of wetland on their ranch. Phase I, consisting of 199 acres, is complete. It contains three small ponds (2 to 6 acres) and three large ponds (18 to 40 acres).

Phase 2, which is currently under construction, will cover 245 acres when complete.

“One of the things we appreciate most about the technical assistance from the NRCS staff at the local level is the personal interest in our conservation goals,” said Rhoda McDonald. “They have helped us from the beginning on this wetland project and have provided us with a variety of alternatives and guidance; however, we fully understand that we are the decision makers.”



### Wyoming Summary

#### Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

A primary benefit of the WRP in Wyoming has been to provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, including threatened and endangered species. Wyoming is a major player in the production of ducks and Canada geese throughout the United States.

#### Accomplishments

In 2001, two applications covering 272 acres were approved for permanent easements, and 23 applications on 756 acres were approved for restoration cost-share agreements. The estimated value of the current backlog of unfunded applications is \$500,000.

#### Program Benefits

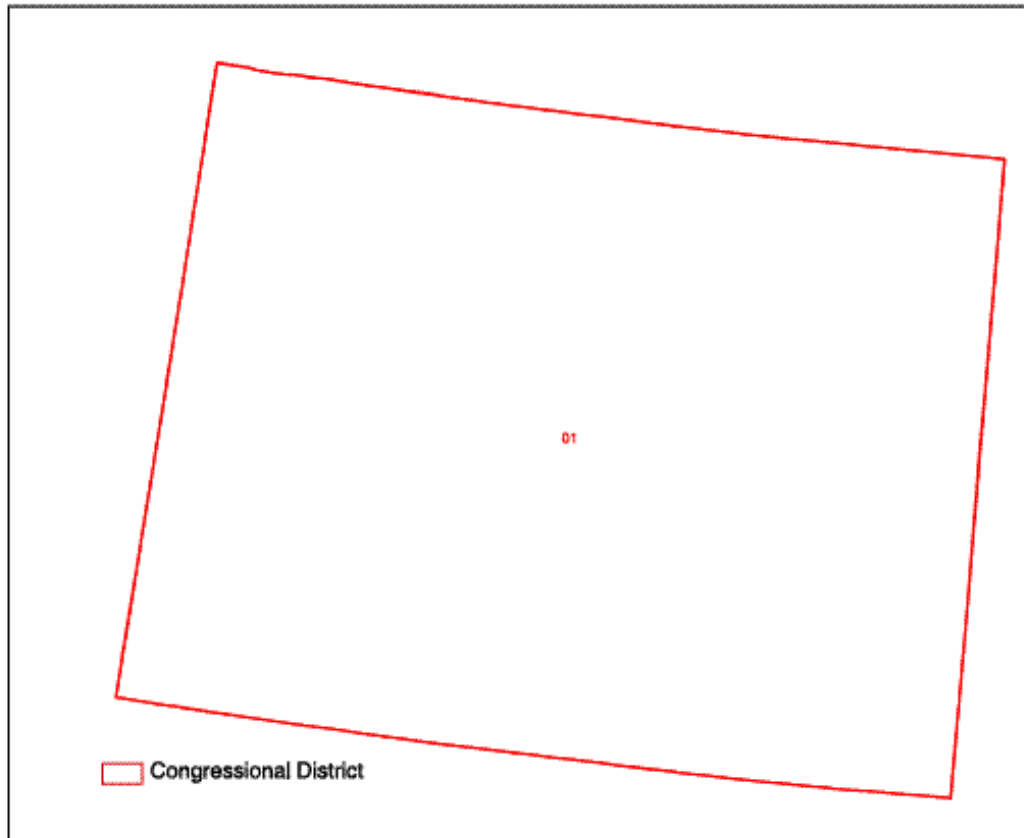
The types of WRP projects most often fall into the following categories: depressional restoration, oxbow restoration, and riparian corridors. All three categories have their own unique characteristics and successful outcomes.

The main function of depressional restoration is for waterfowl production, while oxbow restoration is to contain flood flows and to improve and protect water quality. Riparian corridors connect protected areas, providing a corridor for wildlife. These restoration activities often involve plugging drainage ditches and planting native vegetation. In addition, small dams have been created across draws to hold additional water on the sites.

#### State contact

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## Wyoming Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



## Wyoming Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$700,000	25	\$3,434,092	72
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>\$3,434,092</b>	<b>72</b>

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